



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

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For More Information
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Applications for Major DHS Programs Now Available Online

DES MOINES, Iowa—Applications for major assistance programs managed by the Iowa Department of Human Services, including Medicaid, food assistance, and subsidized childcare, are now available online.

“People have told us they appreciate the opportunity to check if they are eligible and then to apply for assistance without traveling to an office,” said DHS Director Charles J. Krogmeier.

“You can still make an appointment and get in-person help at DHS offices in every county, but applying online is faster, easier, and more accurate,” he said.

The online system—called the Online Application for State of Iowa Services, or OASIS—enables Iowans to apply for Medicaid and food assistance, which are the state’s two largest benefit programs, plus two smaller programs, subsidized childcare and the Family Investment Program. FIP provides cash assistance to support children in low-income families.

The new Web site offers step-by-step directions on how to apply for any or all of the programs. There is also a simple screening tool that provides an “indication of eligibility” for various programs. Eligibility rules are different for all of the programs.

When the application is complete, the information is automatically sent to the correct county DHS office and entered in the agency’s computer system, reducing errors that can occur when interpreting hand-written documents.

Applicants for DHS programs must provide verification of income and resources regardless of whether applying in person or online. The online application provides instructions to help applicants gather the correct documents, which will be reviewed by DHS workers before benefits are approved.

Krogmeier said the new system will not change the number of people eligible for Iowa government programs.

“As we climb out of the recession, the demand for government benefits is hitting new highs. This new system will be a great help to both our customers and our employees,” he said.

The OASIS site is available from the front page of the DHS website at dhs.iowa.gov, or go to oasis.iowa.gov. The site replaces an online application for food assistance.

Online applications for another major DHS program—children’s health insurance—have been available for several years at http://www.hawk-i.org/en_US/apply.html

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